

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 072070

63

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

66632

DIAFTED BY: NEA : ARAPHEL

APPROVED BY: NEA: ARAPHEL

S/ S- O: S FRY

----- 095575

O 180035 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 072070

EXDIS

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT ABU DHABI 488 DATED 17 APR 73 SENT ACTION
SECSTATE INFO JIDDA KUWAIT LONDON TEHRAN DHAHRAN

QUOTE. S E C R E T ABU DHABI 488

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SA, TC

SUBJ: SAUDI/ UAE COMMITTEES TO MEET IN DAMMAM DISCUSS BORDER
PROBLEM

REF: ABU DHABI 326 (NOTAL)

1. DURING APRIL 16 MTG TO COORDINATE HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO US
(SEPTTEL), ABU DHABI MIN PET MANA' OTAIBA MENTIONED THAT IN ADDITION
ENERGY QUESTION, SHAIKH ZAYID WANTS HIM MEET WITH RANKING USG OFF-
ICIALS TO DISCUSS CERTAIN POLITICAL MATTERS OF CURRENT CONCERN TO
UAE, INCLUDING SAUDI-- ABU DHABI BORDER DISPUTE.

2. AS OTAIBA TRUSTED CONFIDANTE OF ZAYID, I USED THIS OPENING
TO INQUIRE IF HE AWARE ANY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD INITIATION
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 072070

OF DIALOGUE, WHICH I MIGHT PASS ALONG TO DEPT. OTAIBA REPLIED THAT IN FACT THERE HAS BEEN NEW DEVELOPMENT WHICH HE COULD REPORT. HE SAID DECISION RECENTLY TAKEN BY ZAYID AND HIS ADVISORS HAVE HIM (I. E. OTAIBA) HEAD UAE RPT UAE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE TO GO TO DAMMAM FOR PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH THREE- MAN SAUDI TEAM TO BE HEADED BY MIN PET YAMANI AND INCLUDING SAUDI AMB LONDON AND UNDER SEC MFA MASOUD. OTHER MEMBERS FROM UAE SIDE WILL BE MUHAMMAD SAID AL- MULLA, LEADING DUBAI MERCHANT, WHO SERVES AS UAE MIN STATE FOR UNITY AND GULF AFFAIRS, AND UAE MIN EDUCATION ABDULLAH UMRAN TURAYM, NATIVE OF SHARJAH WHO PARTICIPATED IN GOOD WICL MISSION TO KINGDOM SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. BOTH OTAIBA AND TURAYM HOLD UNIV DEGREES AND WE HAVE FOUND AL- MULLA TO BE FRIENDLY BUT SHREWD CONTACT. INCLUSION OF NON- ABU DHABI NEGOTIATORS APPARENTLY RECOMMENDED TO ZAYID BY SOME OF FELLOW RULERS, WHO EAGER NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH SAUDIS AND SEE EFFECTIVE WAY OF CREATING BEST POSSIBLE CLIMATE FOR TALKS IS BY NEUTRALIZING POTENTIALLY HARD- LINE ABU DHABI ELEMENT.

3. OTAIBA SAID ZAYID FIRST HAD SUGGESTED BAHRAIN AS VENUE FOR TALKS, BUT WHEN SAUDIS RELUCTANT, HE INFORMED FAISAL THAT HE PREPARED SEND HIS REPS ANY PLACE KING DECIDED. FAISAL REPLIED WITH MSG PROPOSING DAMMAM AND AGREEMENT REACHED IN PAST WEEK OR SO FOR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES COMMENCE TALKS THERE APRIL 28.

4. COMMENTED TO OTAIBA THAT IT HAS OFTEN OCCURRED TO ME AND SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES IN AREA THAT GOOD PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL RAPPORT BUILT UP OVER PAST FEW YRS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND YAMANI MIGHT BE USEFULLY TAPPED TO CREATE PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR FRANK, REALISTIC EXCHANGE ON BORDER PROBLEM BETWEEN PARTIES AT WORKING- LEVEL. HOPEFULLY, SUCH CONTACTS WOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR EVENTUAL MTG BETWEEN ZAYID AND KING AT WHICH EQUITABLE BORDER SETTLEMENT COULD BE FINALIZED. OTAIBA SAID SCENARIO MUCH ALONG THIS LINE HAS DEVELOPED TO DATE. HE AND YAMANI HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TERRITORIAL DISPUTE OVER LAST SIX MONTHS AND HAD ACHIEVED FAIR DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING. BOTH MINISTERS APPARENTLY THEN PERSUADED THEIR LEADERS THAT THEY BE GIVEN CHANCE PROBE FURTHER ON OFFICIAL COMMITTEE LEVEL. ACC OTAIBA, UAE WORKING COMMITTEE HE HEADS WILL REPORT RESULTS INITIAL CONTACTS WITH SAG TO ALL- ABU DHABI COMM ESTABLISHED RECENTLY (REFTEL), WHICH COMPRISES INTER SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 072070

ALIA FM SUWAIDI AND SOME OUTSIDE ADVISORS (UK AMB FOR ONE).

OTAIBA SAID HE WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TACKLE THIS VEXATIOUS
PROBLEM WITH MAN OF SUCH OUTSTANDING ABILITY, JUDGEMENT,
AND MODERATION AS YAMANI, WHO KNOWN TO ENJOY FULL CONFIDENCE
OF FAISAL. OTAIBA ALSO CLAIMED BE CLOSE FRIEND OF SAUDI
AMB TO UK.

5. RESPONDING MY STATEMENT THAT USG VERY PLEASED LEARN LONG
SOUGHT DIALOGUE WILL SOON BEGIN AND WE READY DO ALL POSSIBLE
FACILITATE DIRECT UAE/ SAUDI CONTACTS, OTAIBA SAID UAE DOES NOT
EXPECT USG BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED THIS DISPUTE, BUT GRATIFIED
TO KNOW US ON SIDELINES SHOUTING ENCOURAGEMENT TO BOTH FRIENDS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO JIDDA OR DHAHRAN MAY HAVE DEVELOPED
ON FORTHCOMING MTG IN DAMMAM.
REQUEST JIDDA POUCH COPY ABU DHABI 326 TO DHAHRAN FOR
BACKGROUND.
GRIFFIN

UNQUOTE. ROGERS

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE072070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730452/aaaaixkw.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 ABU DHABI 326 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980202
Subject: SAUDI/ UAE COMMITTEES TO MEET IN DAMMAM DISCUSS BORDER PROBLEM
TAGS: PBOR, SA, TC
To: DACCA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005